BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2003-125-S - ORDER NO. 2003-352

MAY 28, 2003

IN RE:	Application of Midlands Utility, Inc. for)	ORDER APPROVING
	Extension of its Sewer Service Area to)	EXTENSION OF
	Include Quinton Commons Located in)	SERVICE AREA
	Lexington County, South Carolina.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Midlands Utility, Inc. (Midlands or the Company) for an extension of its service area to include the Quinton Commons subdivision located in Lexington County, South Carolina. There are no other sewer providers in the area and the requested extension is adjacent to Midland's current service area. The Company requests that it be allowed to provide service pursuant to the terms, conditions, rates and charges set forth in its existing rate schedule, and as may change from time to time as a result of any proceedings that might be brought before the Commission by the Company.

In accordance with Commission Regulation 26 S.C. Regs 103-504 (Supp. 2002), the Company requested a waiver of public notice and a hearing in this matter on the basis that the service area is an extension of a territory already served by Midlands. We hereby grant the waiver of notice and hearing under the provisions of Regulation 103-504, and we also grant the Application as filed, pursuant to the reasoning stated below.

Kenneth G. Parnell, owner of Midlands, filed an application with the Commission on April 8, 2003 requesting an extension of its sewer service area to include the Quinton Commons, a 36 unit patio-home subdivision being constructed near the intersection of Methodist Park Road and Romell Street near the City of West Columbia in Lexington County. Mr. Parnell's request was based on the request to Midlands by McQuinn Construction Company, which is building the Quinton Commons project, to provide sanitary sewer service to this development. There are no other sewer service providers in the area and it is immediately adjacent to Midlands' current service area. Wastewater from the new service area will be transported to the City of Cayce wastewater treatment facility, which possesses sufficient capacity for its treatment and disposal.

In accordance with 26 S.C. Regs. 103-504 (Supp. 2002), this Commission requires any public utility that wishes to acquire additional utility systems or extend its system to obtain a certificate from the Commission that the acquisition is in the public interest or that the public convenience and necessity require operation of any extension. Clearly, Midlands has met the criteria imposed by the regulation, and the required certificate should therefore be granted. It is apparent that the subdivision being built by McQuinn Construction is in need of sewer service and there are no other sewer utility companies which serve this area. We therefore hold that the extension of Midlands' service area to include the Quinton Commons development is in the public interest and, further, that the public convenience and necessity require the operation of the extension. The extension by Midlands is therefore approved and we hereby grant the required certificate. The Company may charge its presently approved rates in the new service area.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)